

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 3:26 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - May 23, 2025

Campus Community,

This week, I had the opportunity to present to the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees on behalf of the Strategic Enrollment Advisory Council, which I currently serve on. During my presentation, I shared insights on student transfer, basic needs, and the direction our college is heading in terms of transfer initiatives. Thanks to the support of the Ballmer Group grant, mentioned in the [President/CEO Message - November 15, 2024](#)—we are now positioned to develop a new regional transfer strategy. As we continue aligning our programs with student needs and institutional capacity, we will shift our focus toward strengthening local partnerships and streamlining transfer pathways with colleges and universities within a **50-mile radius** of our campus.

To lead this effort, I have asked Dr. Maria Garcia, Interim Dean of Counseling and Guided Pathways, to coordinate the development of this strategy. Dr. Garcia will work in collaboration with the Transfer and Career Center faculty and classified professionals, the Counseling Department, and the Guided Pathways and Student Success committees.

This new regional strategy aligns with the goals outlined in [Compton College 2035, Comprehensive Master Plan](#), and represents a strategic shift toward creating more accessible and sustainable opportunities for our students. As part of this approach, we are also working closely with Compton, Lynwood, and Paramount Unified School Districts to explore Direct Admissions partnerships with CSU campuses.

Our goal is to establish Direct Admissions agreements with the CSU campuses located within a **50-mile radius** of Compton College and with CSU-designated Black-Serving Institutions outside of the **50-mile radius**. Additionally, as part of the development of our First Year Experience Program, students from our partner districts who are not directly admitted will have the opportunity to pursue dual admission through Compton College and a selected CSU campus.

We are in the early stages of this work. If you have creative ideas or recommendations related to this new regional transfer strategy, please share them with Dr. Maria Garcia at mgarcia74@compton.edu.

Today's President/CEO Message includes a recap of Tuesday's Campuswide Forum, the announcement of our two Commencement speakers, recognition of the 2024–2025 Distinguished Faculty, Staff, and Administrator awardees, our Civility Champions, and more.

Enrollment Update as of May 22, 2025

- 424 FTES for the **Summer 2025** term. 3,448 (61%) of the available summer seats are currently filled.
- 473 FTES for the **Fall 2025** semester. Our fill rate for Fall is 17% with 2,957 seats filled.

Please encourage your students to register for the summer and fall classes. Every enrollment counts, and if students need registration assistance, they can visit the Welcome Center located in the Student Services Building. If they need to see a counselor, they can drop in or [schedule an appointment](#).

2025 Compton College Commencement Ceremony Speakers

Compton College's 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be held on **Friday, June 13, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dignity Health Sports Park Tennis Stadium. The venue will open at 4:00 p.m. for grads and guests. Check the [Commencement Information webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.

We are pleased to welcome Russlynn Ali, CEO and Co-founder of [XQ Institute](#) and Managing Director of the Education Fund at [Emerson Collective](#), as the keynote speaker for the 2025 Commencement Ceremony. XQ Institute is committed to transforming public high schools to close achievement and opportunity gaps and to make schools the center of community revitalization. Previously, Russlynn Ali served as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education during President Barack Obama's first term.

Compton College associate degree candidate, Corinthia Mims, is honored to be selected as the student speaker for this year's Commencement Ceremony. Corinthia's speech will be an extension of the "Every Student is a Success Story" motto and encourages her fellow graduates to continue writing their success stories that extend well beyond the accomplishments celebrated in June.

Distinguished Faculty, Staff, and Administrator Awards

The 2024–2025 Distinguished Faculty, Staff, and Administrator awardees were honored at the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting on **May 16, 2025**. Each recipient received a \$500 award, a commemorative plaque, and a specially designed medallion. These individuals are also invited to participate in the Commencement Ceremony as members of the Platform Party.

2024-2025 Award Recipients:

- **Distinguished Faculty** – Dr. Roza Ekimyan, Professor of Human Development
- **Distinguished Staff** – Travis Martin, Administrative Assistant, Special Resources Center.
- **Distinguished Administrator** – Dr. Sheri Berger, Vice President of Academic Affairs

In addition, the **2025 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty** award was presented at the **May 19, 2025**, Board of Trustees meeting to: Dr. Samitha Givens, Adjunct Faculty, Social Sciences Guided Pathways Division

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees! Special thanks to Keenan & Associates for their generous support of these awards.

2024-2025 Compton Community College District Civility Champions

The Civility Champion Award recognizes exceptional members of the Compton Community College District who exemplify self-reflection, care, empathy, and respect, while honoring the culture and humanity of others. Recipients were awarded \$100 and recognized at the **May 19, 2025**, Board of Trustees meeting.

As stated in Compton College's [Statement of Civility and Mutual Respect](#), how we interact with one another is essential to fostering a meaningful and effective intellectual environment. We extend our sincere gratitude to this year's Civility Champions for setting a powerful example and helping to create a respectful and inclusive campus community.

2024–2025 Civility Champion Award Recipients:

- **Faculty:** Janette Morales, Professor of Counseling and Human Development
- **Staff:** Felecia Hatten, Evaluations Specialist, Admissions and Records Department

Congratulations to this year's Civility Champions, and thank you once again to Keenan & Associates for their continued support.

2025-2026 College Goals

Compton College is finalizing its [goals for the next academic year](#). The Core Planning Team has been working this semester to develop these goals as action steps aligned with the objectives of our [Compton College 2035, Comprehensive Master Plan](#). The goals will help ensure that our strategic efforts remain focused on student success, equity, and campus advancement. They have been approved through the collaborative governance process and will be presented for adoption by the Board of Trustees at the **June 16, 2025**, meeting.

Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

At the **May 19, 2025**, Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting, the following Board Policies (BP) were approved, and the Administrative Regulations (AR) listed below were issued.

- [Board Policy 2370](#) – Representatives at Board Meetings
- [Board Policy 2725](#) – Board Member Compensation
- [Board Policy 3225](#) – Institutional Effectiveness
- [Board Policy 5110](#) – Counseling
- [Board Policy 5120](#) – Transfer Center
- [Board Policy 5220](#) – Shower Facilities for Homeless Students
- [Board Policy 6330](#) – Purchasing
- [Board Policy 7270](#) – Unclassified Employees
- [Board Policy 7335](#) – Health Examinations
- [Board Policy 7340](#) – Leaves
- [Board Policy 7510](#) – Domestic Partners
- [Board Policy 7710](#) – Political Activity – Employees
- [Administrative Regulation 2725](#) – Board Member Compensation
- [Administrative Regulation 2730](#) – Board Member Health Benefits
- [Administrative Regulation 3501](#) – Campus Security and Access
- [Administrative Regulation 4025](#) – Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education
- [Administrative Regulation 5050](#) – Student Success and Support Program
- [Administrative Regulation 5110](#) – Counseling
- [Administrative Regulation 5120](#) – Transfer Center
- [Administrative Regulation 5140](#) – Disabled Student Programs and Services
- [Administrative Regulation 5150](#) – Extended Opportunity Programs
- [Administrative Regulation 5520](#) – Student Discipline Procedures
- [Administrative Regulation 6535](#) – Use of District Equipment

Summer Four-Day Workweek - 2025

- The 4/10 workweek (four 10-hour workdays per week) for classified and administrative employees begins **Monday, June 23, 2025**.
- The first Friday off is **June 27, 2025**, and the last Friday off is **August 8, 2025**.

Campuswide Forum Recap – May 20, 2025

Thank you to everyone who joined the Campuswide Forum on **May 20, 2025**. I want to share a brief recap of the key topics we covered during the [presentation](#). We began with an update on enrollment, where we're seeing encouraging growth across terms. Our FTES numbers are steadily rising, with Spring 2025 showing a 10% increase over last year and Summer and Fall 2025 also trending upward. These gains reflect the hard work of our faculty, staff, and outreach teams.

The 2025–2026 tentative budget was reviewed. It highlights a projected \$54.45 million in revenue and strategic investments in student support, technology, and new faculty positions. We're also setting aside funds for key initiatives like Guided Pathways and our ERP system.

Looking ahead, [Compton College 2035](#) remains our guiding vision. This semester, we've launched several implementation activities, including the development of a new [Institutional-Set Goals Dashboard](#) and updated student success targets for 2035. These efforts are grounded in our commitment to equity, access, and completion.

We also explored how artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT and Google's NotebookLM can support our work, from document drafting and data analysis to outreach and communication.

If you missed the virtual Campus Forum, you can view the presentation [here](#).

Legislative and Policy Update – State and Federal

Staff continues to monitor state and federal legislation that may impact Compton College and the broader California Community Colleges system. At the state level, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is currently tracking 96 Tier 1 bills for the 2025–2026 Legislative Session. These bills address key areas such as dual enrollment, credit for prior learning, student housing, and childcare for student parents. A full legislative matrix is available on the Tracked Legislation webpage.

Federally, recent executive orders—particularly those related to accreditation—are drawing attention from national and state-level organizations. These orders propose significant changes, including the removal of DEI standards from accreditation criteria and the introduction of experimental accreditation models. Organizations such as the [Association of Community College Trustees](#), the [Community College League of California](#), and the [Association of California Community College Administrators](#) are actively responding and advising institutions on potential implications.

Staff will continue to provide monthly updates and guidance via the [Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Agenda](#) as new developments emerge.

Final Thoughts

Last night, we celebrated a remarkable milestone at our annual Transfer Admit Celebration. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our students who have been admitted to four-year universities. One of the evening's highlights was a moving speech by Stephanie Lopez, a graduating student who has earned two associate degrees and a certificate. Her words captured the spirit of what it means to pursue higher education in today's world. She reminded us:

“With education, we unlock everything.

We gain the tools to solve problems, to lift up our communities, to challenge injustice, and to dream bigger than the world we were born into. Because when you have knowledge, you have power.

And when you have power, you have the ability to create change.”

Stephanie's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education. Let's continue to support one another, dream boldly, and create change. Click [here](#) to read Stephanie's full speech.

I encourage you to take part in the many year-end events designed to celebrate and honor the Class of 2025. These events are a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and recognize the achievements of our graduates. A full list of events is available [here](#).

In closing, if any Compton College employees have a family member graduating from our college on **June 13, 2025**, we'd love to help you be part of their big moment. Please contact the Director of Community Relations, Heather Parnock, at hparnock@compton.edu to explore how you can personally present their diploma cover during the ceremony. The deadline to contact Heather Parnock to make this request is **Friday, May 30, 2025**.

Sincerely,

Keith Curry, Ed.D.
(he/him/his)
President/CEO
Compton College